

PREFACE

We are pleased to document, in this journal, the proceedings of the Second Workshop in Immune Mechanisms in Cutaneous Disorders which took place in September 1979. Spurred on by the success of the first symposium in 1975, we gathered at Brook Lodge in Michigan in a setting of quiet elegance. The meeting brought together immunologists and dermatologists with different views and from many different areas of investigation working together to better understand the immunologic mechanisms of cutaneous disorders. The conference was designed to promote the exchange of new ideas and recently developed methodology.

The proceedings of this conference deal with relatively new areas of research with broad biological implications. The formal sessions covered six major topics: cellular interactions in delayed hypersensitivity, biology of macrophages, the role of Langerhans cells in cutaneous diseases, biological implications of immune complexes, regulation of mast cell and basophil functions, and clinical-experimental correlations.

It is our hope that the documentation of this symposium will alleviate duplication of effort within this field, assist in the planning of future investigations and stimulate the young scientists present and those not in attendance to continue research efforts in further explorations of immunologic mechanisms in diseases of the skin.

We are grateful to the directors of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious diseases and the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolic and Digestive Diseases for their interest in furthering research in dermatology. The sponsorship by these Institutes made this symposium possible. The preparation of the meeting and of the material for this volume was greatly facilitated by the thoughtfulness and experienced help of Ms. Diane Silberling and Ms. Elizabeth Drahman.

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